

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00631 250942Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 PPT-01 SY-05
OPR-02 COME-00 AID-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /091 W
-----251040Z 098356 /14

R 250831Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7978
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0631

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS PDIP LA US
SUBJECT: HOURS OF CURFEW CHANGE AGAIN

REF VIENTIANE 202

1. LPDR POLICE SEPARATELY STOPPED TWO EMBASSY
OFFICERS MARCH 23 AND CONFISCATED THEIR IDENTIFICATION
DOCUMENTS WELL BEFORE THE MIDNIGHT CURFEW. ADMINIS-
TRATIVE SPECIALIST EN ROUTE TO EMBASSY WHERE HE WAS TO
ASSUME NIGHT GUARD SHIFT WAS STOPPED AT 11:35 P.M. AND
DETAINED FOR 55 MINUTES. POLITICAL OFFICER WAS
STOPPED AT 11:30 P.M. AS HE RETURNED HOME FROM REPRE-
SENTATIONAL EVENT.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED EMBASSY
FEBRUARY 1, AS REPORTED REFTEL, THAT DIPLOMATS SHOULD
NOT TRAVEL WITHIN VIENTIANE AFTER MIDNIGHT UNLESS THEY
HAD BUSINESS, INCLUDING DINNER PARTIES. WE WERE ALSO
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TOLD THAT POLICE WOULD STOP DIPLOMATS AFTER MIDNIGHT
AND REPORT THEIR LICENSE PLATE AND DIPLOMATIC ID NUMBERS
TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. EMBOFF CALLED ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR
AFFAIRS KHAMPOUY SOUKRISAK MARCH 25 TO INQUIRE ABOUT
THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN POLICY AND PRACTICE. KHAMPOUY

SAID THAT THE MFA WOULD NOT ISSUE AN OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE CLARIFYING THE HOURS OF CURFEW AND THAT THEY REALLY HAD VERY LITTLE INFLUENCE OVER THE POLICIES OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HE SAID THAT HE ATTENDED A SEMINAR MARCH 24 IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY IN WHICH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS, AND TRANSPORTATION SINGKAPO CHOUNAMALY ADVISED THAT CITIZENS IN VIENTIANE RESPECT AN ELEVEN PM TO 5:30 AM CURFEW. KHAMPOUY SAID THAT SINGKAPO, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO RANKING OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WAS INTENTIONALLY VAGUE ABOUT THE "ADVICE" AND SAID THAT IT WAS NOT AN "ORDER".

4. KHAMPOUY PROMISED TO CALL THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO RECOVER THE ID DOCUMENTS CONFISCATED FROM EMBOFFS.

5. CONSULAR ASSISTANT SEPARATELY INQUIRED ABOUT CURFEW AND ID DOCUMENTS AT THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT. SHE WAS TOLD BY A LOW RANKING POLICEMAN THAT THE DOCUMENTS WOULD BE SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFTER THE POLICE CHIEF THERE SIGNED OFF ON THEIR RELEASE, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 28. CONSULAR ASSISTANT REPORTED THAT SAME POLICEMAN SEEMED CLEAR IN HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT CURFEW WAS INDEED ELEVEN O'CLOCK FOR VEHICLES AND NINE O'CLOCK IN EVENING FOR PEDESTRIANS.

6. LPDR POLICE ALSO CONFISCATED THE DIPLOMATIC CARD
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OF A BRITISH NATIONAL (THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S SECRETARY) AT APPROXIMATELY 2330 MARCH 23. MANY LAO CITIZENS WERE ALSO STOPPED AT THE CHECKPOINTS DURING THE EVENING OF MARCH 23.

7. COMMENT: WHILE US PERSONNEL WERE NOT SINGLED OUT FOR HARASSMENT, THE INCIDENT IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE ASCENDANCY OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND AN EXAMPLE OF THE TIGHT CONTROL IMPOSED ON ALL RESIDENTS OF THE LPDR, INCLUDING FOREIGN DIPLOMATS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, CURFEW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770320/aaaaaqtn.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2990759
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOURS OF CURFEW CHANGE AGAIN
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